

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Angela L. Walker Franklin
(ΦBK, Furman University)

Angela L. Walker Franklin, a native of McCormick, South Carolina, is a Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* graduate of Furman University. A licensed clinical psychologist, she completed her Ph.D. at Emory University followed by a year-long clinical internship at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Franklin, who became Des Moines University's 15th president in the spring of 2011, has worked in higher education for more than 25 years. She is the first woman and first person of color to fill the presidency at DMU, the largest medical school in Iowa and one of the top 25 largest in the country.

Previously, Franklin served as Executive Vice President and Provost at Meharry Medical College in Nashville where she oversaw academic and administrative departments. She also held a professorship in Meharry's department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

The liberal arts and sciences represent "a philosophy that is the backdrop on which I built my career," said Franklin. Studies across a range of disciplines provide a "big picture view" that informs her approach to leadership, she added.

"I always envision leadership as someone who can see the forest, the trees, where they're planted, where the roots go, and a very big view of what it takes to fertilize and nourish," she said. "Focus on the individuals that are part of what makes an organization work."

Franklin described the ideal candidate for medical school as the student not only prepared to handle rigorous courses in the sciences, but also with a diverse background.



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"If you were to ask what faculties of institutions like ours are looking for in the next generation of health care providers, they're looking for the student to have a broader range of experiences," she observed. "Someone with that stronger liberal arts background and foundation in the liberal arts and the sciences is perceived to have a broader view."

"The love of learning is the key to success," Franklin explained, "to be able to always think about evolving and growing and learning more."

"Being Phi Beta Kappa is all about quality and excellence and education. The love of learning is to me a foundation."

—Angela L. Walker Franklin